

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-01 DHA-02 ORM-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-04 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 TRSE-00 VO-03 SCA-01 /077 W
-----171141Z 076741 /22

R 161723Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9144

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, SHUM, AR
SUBJECT: JUAN MENDEZ MOVED TO MAXIMUM SECURITY PAVILLION IN LA
PLATA PRISON

REF: (A) STATE 031775, (B) BUENOS AIRES 0578

1. SUSANA AND JULIO MENDEZ VISITED EMBASSY YESTERDAY (FEB15)
TO REPORT THAT THEIR BROTHER JUAN MENDEZ WAS MOVED TO THE MAXI-
MUM SECURITY "WING NO. 1 OF UNIT 9" AT LA PLATA PRISON THE
BEGINNING OF FEBRUARY. MENDEZ HAD BEEN AUTHORIZED TO LEAVE
ARGENTINA FOR FRANCE BY A PRESIDENTIAL DECREE SIGNED JAN 14
(REF B). AS UNIT 9 HAS BECOME KNOWN AS THE "WAITING ROOM FOR
DEATH" (FOUR OF ITS INMATES HAVE DIED IN AMBUSHES OR CONFLICTS
WHILE REPORTEDLY BEING TRANSFERRED FROM THE PRISON SINCE
JANUARY (SEE SEPTTEL), THE MENDEZ FAMILY IS EXTREMELY CONCERNED.
IN RESPONSE TO FAMILY INQUIRIES ABOUT JUAN'S AUTHORIZATION TO
LEAVE ARGENTINA, THE INTERIOR MINISTRY HAS RESPONDED THAT
INASMUCH AS THE PRESIDENTIAL DECREE HAS ALREADY BEEN SIGNED,
MENDEZ IS NO LONGER BEING HELD UNDER ITS JURISDICTION AND THE
CASE IS "OUT OF ITS HANDS." THE MINISTRY SAID HIS RELEASE WAS
NOW DEPENDENT ON "BUREAUCRATIC ARRANGEMENTS" AND THE AUTHORITIES
IN CONTROL OF THE PRISON SYSTEM IN LA PLATA (I.E., THE ARMY).

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2. THE FAMILY HAS APPEALED TO A FEDERAL JUDGE, WHO, THEY TOLD
EMBOFF, HAS AGREED TO PUBLICLY ORDER THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT
TO CARRY OUT THE JANUARY 14 DECREE AND RELEASE MENDEZ FOR
DEPARTURE TO FRANCE. EMBASSY IS ALSO REQUESTING INFORMATION ON
THIS CASE AND EXPRESSING CONCERN THROUGH MILITARY AS WELL AS
EXECUTIVE BRANCH CHANNELS. MENDEZ FAMILY ADVISED EMBOFF THAT
IT WILL ASK AMERICAN CONTACT JOHN HUTCHISON TO ASK CONGREEMEN

INTERESTED IN CASE (CONGRESSMAN DRINAN AND RAILSBACK) TO CABLE
THEIR CONCERN DIRECTLY TO THE ARMY BRANCH IN LA PLATA.

3. FAMILY ASKED FOR AN APPLICATION FOR AN IMMIGRANT VISA TO
U. S. FOR JUAN. IT APPEARS THAT HE IS NOT ELIGIBLE FOR A
PREFERENCE AND THEREFORE WOULD HAVE TO FULFILL THE NORMAL
REQUIREMENTS INCLUDING THE LABOR CERTIFICATE AND THE WAITING
PERIOD FOR ARGENTINE CITIZENS (NOW A MATTER OF ABOUT 15 MONTHS).
THE FAMILY SAID IT WILL SEEK JOHN HUTCHISON'S ASSISTANCE ON THE
JOB AND WAITING PERIOD REQUIREMENTS. IF ALLOWED TO LEAVE
ARGENTINA, MENDEZ WOULD LEAVE IMMEDIATELY FOR FRANCE UNTIL
GRANTED AN IMMIGRANT VISA FOR THE U. S.
CHAPLIN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRISONERS RELEASE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 16-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
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Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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From: BUENOS AIRES
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770237/aaaabguj.tel
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